

Judge of the Middle Tennessee District. Davies, Jr. served as District Attorney General from 1972 to 1982 and then as Circuit Court Judge from 1982 to 1989. Serving Tennesseans from Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties, Davies cultivated a pristine and upstanding legal reputation.

Judge Davies certainly followed his passions; never settling to look from the outside onto a subject he loved. Wanting to learn more about the art of food, Davies went to France to study the culinary arts. Then seeking to serve folks in a very different way, Davies purchased a hotel in the South Pacific and lived his later years in service to one of his many dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Judge Elmer Davies, Jr. and I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring his legacy. May his life teach us all to serve with greater nobility and live out our dreams in service to others.

TO CONGRATULATE SANDI
QUALLEY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sandi Qualley, Executive Director of the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area (HACA), on the occasion of her retirement following 21 years of dedicated service to those individuals who suffer from bleeding disorders and their families.

HACA is a nonprofit organization that provides many needed services to people with bleeding disorders such as hemophilia and von Willebrand disease and their families. HACA serves more than 250 families in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and it is a chapter of both Hemophilia Federation of America and the National Hemophilia Foundation, the two leading national hemophilia patient organizations. HACA's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from bleeding disorders and their families through education, advocacy, and member services in order to promote research and to raise the resources needed to achieve these goals.

Sandi has been instrumental in ensuring that HACA continues to deliver on its mission. It sends children with bleeding disorders to camps that are equipped to address their specific medical needs. HACA offers educational programming to members of the bleeding disorders community at all stages of life: Families with newly diagnosed infants, school-age children, adolescents, adults, and those now confronting the additional complications that advancing age can pose for an individual with a bleeding disorder. HACA also helps provide financial assistance to needy families and resources to other nonprofit organizations that work with the hemophilia community in an expanding global network.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sandi Qualley for her years of service and in congratulating her on the occasion of her retirement. Her distinguished service has greatly contributed to the advancement and improvement of care and treatment available to individuals suffering from bleed-related afflictions.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3648, THE
HARBOR FAIRNESS ACT OF 2011

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to ensure that future expenditures for the maintenance of commercial harbors are equitably distributed, so that all communities—large and small—may optimize the economic benefits of their inland and coastal ports.

Over the past few administrations, far more funds have been collected by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund than have been expended on an annual basis—and unfortunately, the adverse signs of underfunding are becoming apparent. Year after year of insufficient maintenance dredging resources for coastal and inland ports has resulted in reduced depths at countless port facilities, and has all but passed over the dredging needs of moderately sized or smaller ports, such as Lake Montauk, in the New York's First Congressional District.

In recent years, there has been a concerted effort in Congress to fully utilize harbor maintenance funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the purpose they were collected. I am a strong supporter of these efforts because I have seen, firsthand, the adverse impacts of shoaled harbors on local and regional economies. When local harbors become filled with sediment, the corresponding reduction of commercial shipping can have a significant adverse impact on the national, regional, and local economies, as well as on the jobs that are directly and indirectly related to ports and shipping.

It is essential that Congress find a way to ensure that funds collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund be fully allocated—not only to ensure the viability of commercial shipping, but also to realize the jobs that can be created for port workers and dredgers, as well as through businesses that rely on local harbors for their livelihoods.

However, even if annual collections to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund were fully utilized, there is reason to believe that, under the status quo decision process for where funds are expended, the needs of many of the moderate-to-small harbors would remain unmet.

According to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), there is a significant backlog of maintenance dredging activities necessary to restore fully authorized project dimensions of existing commercial navigation projects. According to the Corps, the estimated annual maintenance cost to restore authorized projects to their full widths and depths is \$2.3 billion during the first five years. Once this backlog is addressed, the Corps estimates that annual maintenance costs (for year 6 and beyond) would average around \$1.8 billion per year.

Based on the Corps' projection on maintenance dredging needs, it appears that the annual operation and maintenance needs identified by the Corps exceed the amounts that have been collected, annually, by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This means that, even if annual collections to the Trust Fund are fully allocated, there will be an unmet annual maintenance dredging need far into the

future. It is that unmet annual maintenance dredging need that makes the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 critical to mid-size and small commercial harbors, so that these harbors are not continually left behind.

Over the past few years, I have heard numerous examples of commercial harbors that were passed over for critical maintenance dredging funds from the Corps, in essence, because insufficient funds were made available for maintenance dredging needs. However, in my view, it has been the mid-size and small commercial harbors that have been disproportionately impacted by the lack of annual maintenance dredging funds.

For example, according to the Corps, the agency is currently responsible for maintenance dredging at 1,067 harbors, nationwide. Of this number, only 59 harbors (or 5 percent) are characterized as "high-use" harbors—on those that use at least 10 million tons of commerce annually. The remaining 1,008 harbors that fall under the Corps' maintenance dredging responsibility are characterized as "moderate" or "low-use" harbors.

However, when you look at the President's budget request for the past two fiscal years, it is easy to see the disparity in funding allocations among these categories of harbors.

For example, in the fiscal year 2012 budget request, "high-use" harbors received 66 percent of available funds, while "low-use" harbors received only 6 percent of the funds. This would mean that, under the status quo process for allocating maintenance dredging funding—which has been followed by both Democratic and Republican Presidential administrations—approximately 5 percent of eligible harbors received over 66 percent of the funds made available from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of a Congressional district with small commercial harbors, the status quo must change.

To my community, the benefit of small and mid-size commercial harbors to the local economy is not proportional to their size. As a witness from New York's First Congressional District, Ms. Bonnie Brady, testified before the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the small commercial fishing ports on Long Island are responsible for 99 percent of New York's landed seafood catch—worth over \$49 million dollars at the dock.

That is why I am introducing the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011. This legislation attempts to balance the operation and maintenance needs of all commercial harbors, regardless of size, and to ensure that funding is equitably distributed between high-, moderate-, and low-use facilities.

First, the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 would require the Corps to assess, on a biennial basis, the overall dredging needs of those commercial harbors that it is responsible for, including harbors used for commercial navigation, fishing, subsistence, domestic energy production, recreation, the transport of persons, and navigation safety.

This legislation would require the Corps to report its findings on operation and maintenance needs to the authorizing Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as part of the President's budget submission to Congress. This information would be critical for Congress to comprehensively understand the overall operation and maintenance needs of all commercial harbors, as well as that portion of the national dredging need that would

be deferred to future years due to lack of available funding.

In addition, the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 would require the Administration to identify future allocations of operation and maintenance funds, on a harbor-by-harbor basis. This information will allow commercial harbors to more accurately plan future operation and maintenance expenditures, both short-term and long-term, and more efficiently make critical decisions on the most efficient way to maintain safe commercial shipping at local harbors.

The central focus of the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 is the requirement that expenditures for maintenance dredging is equitably allocated among all eligible commercial harbors. To accomplish this, the legislation requires the Secretary of the Army: (1) to utilize the information obtained from the assessment of dredging needs; (2) to consider the national and regional significance of harbor operation and maintenance; and (3) to make allocation decisions on factors beyond simply the amount of cargo tonnage transiting through a commercial harbor.

While the Corps is completing its assessment of national maintenance dredging needs, this legislation establishes a short-term, minimum allocation for maintenance dredging at midsize and small commercial harbors. The 40 percent guaranteed allocation for mid-size and small commercial harbors for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 represents only a modest increase in the allocation for these harbors over the previous two fiscal years (33.7 percent in fiscal year 2012 and 33.4 percent for fiscal year 2011), in part to address the disproportionate backlog faced by mid-size and small commercial harbors.

In addition, this mandatory allocation of 40 percent is temporary, and will be replaced in fiscal year 2014 by an allocation based on the actual maintenance dredging needs of all harbors, as identified by the Corps.

Mr. Speaker, the Harbor Fairness Act of 2011 recognizes the fundamental importance of all commercial harbors to the national, regional, and local economies. It calls for fairness in the allocation of critical maintenance dredging funds among large-, moderate-, and small-commercial harbors. But, most of all, it recognizes the importance of the nation's ports to America and to American workers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE 2011 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2011 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-

recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients have also been named for the 2011 Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the Eakin family who donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority over 50 years ago, and the 2011 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named after the late Sally Ormsby who was a champion of environmental stewardship. I congratulate each of the 2011 recipients of these prestigious awards.

2011 Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients: Craig and Belinda Stevens for their generous financial support of numerous Park Foundation projects; and

Cox Communications, for their ongoing funding of the Summer Entertainment Series.

2011 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award Recipient:

Stella Koch, in recognition of the central role she has played in many environmental issues including development of policies and preservation of our natural resources.

2011 Elly Doyle Service Award Recipients:

Friends of the Hidden Oaks Nature Center—For their exceptional efforts in supporting programs, activities, and facilities at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale.

Charles and Jacque Olin—For the establishment of the Analemma Society in 1998 and their efforts in creating Observatory Park at Turner Farm.

Chris Robichaux—For creating the Mason District Dog Opportunity Group in 2000 which worked with Park Authority staff to identify suitable parkland for an off-leash dog area.

2011 Elly Doyle Special Recognition Awards Recipients: Jim Franks, Lynne Glasser, John Hopkins, James Jamison, and Judy Kirby, and student honoree, Morgan Volpe.

I also commend the 18 individuals who comprise the Class of 2011 Outstanding Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their demonstrated commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

HONORING DONNA GORITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and mark the retirement of Blair County Commissioner Donna GORITY. Donna is a friend and colleague whose work has left an indelible mark on her community. It has been an honor to work with her over her extensive career in the Commissioner's office

to help improve the lives of our shared constituents. I join many other local elected officials, friends and neighbors in wishing her well in her retirement.

It is difficult to fit in all of the things Donna has accomplished over her 28 years in public office. First and foremost, Donna has the distinction of serving as the first female member of the Blair County Board of Commissioners. Donna has long been known for being a champion for children and health and human services issues throughout the county. Over her time in office, Donna developed a track record as a strong advocate for funding the county's Human Services Office, which provides support for homeless families and juvenile delinquency prevention.

In addition, Donna has been deeply involved in a program that is also very important to me: Operation Our Town in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Operation Our Town is a successful partnership between businesses and communities throughout Central Pennsylvania whose mission is to rid neighborhoods of drugs and drug-related violent crime. Operation Our Town completes its mission through community policing and proven treatment and prevention techniques. I am proud to have had her as an ally in applying Operation Our Town's techniques to Altoona.

Donna has been the recipient of a number of awards over her career. She was recognized as part of the "Outstanding Young Women in America" in 1978, was named Boss of the Year in 1986 by the American Business Women's Association, won the President's Award by the County Commissioner's Association of Pennsylvania in 1994, received the Leadership Award from the Blair County NAACP in 2003 and the Lifetime Achievement Award this year by Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities. Again, these are but a few of her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Donna GORITY on her successful 28 years in public office and wish her well in her retirement. She will leave Blair County's government and the people it represents in better shape than when she found it. In the end, I believe that should be the goal of every public servant. Without question, Donna accomplished that goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 913, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR. KENNY SMITH AND HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Dr.